

TRANSLATION PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B14342.3 PV	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/FR2004/050477	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.10.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 03.10.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G11B5/74, G11B5/82, G11B5/84, G11B5/85, G11B5/855			
Applicant COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of **6** sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/FR2004/050477

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-23 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 1-11 as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets 1/6-6/6 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/FR2004/050477Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-B1-6 602 620 (KIKITSU AKIRA ET AL) 5 August 2003 (2003-08-05);

D2: US 2002/022147 A1 (KOMORIYA HITOSHI ET AL) 21 February 2002 (2002-02-21) .

1.2 The present invention relates to a data storage medium that includes a substantially planar front surface (32) and a rear surface (30), and is intended to be read and/or written by a reading and/or writing device (46) placed opposite said front surface. Said medium is characterised in that the rear surface includes recessed areas (28, 68, 69), all or part of the side walls and/or the bottom wall of said recessed areas is covered with a magnetic deposit (34, 60, 62, 74, 82) for storing data, and the spacing between said front surface and said magnetic deposit is such that the reading and/or writing device can read and/or write data in said magnetic deposit.

The invention also relates to a method for

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050477

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
producing such a medium.

1.3 Neither of the two documents D1 and D2 cited in the search report is considered to be relevant, for the following reasons:

Neither D1 nor D2 describes a medium including a planar front surface and a rear surface (the surface opposite the front surface in front of which the reading and/or writing device is placed) that includes recessed areas having recesses covered with a magnetic deposit for storing data.

In both documents D1 and D2, the magnetic areas are arranged in deeper layers of the recording medium and are covered with either a protective layer in D1 or a magnetic layer and a protective layer in D2.

No recessed areas provided with a magnetic material are formed on the rear surface of the medium in either of said documents.

As a result, none of the available prior art documents discloses nor suggests the subject matter of independent claim 1.

Similarly, none of the available prior art documents discloses or suggests the subject matter of dependent claim 2 or claims 3 to 11, which relate to the production of a medium as per claim 1.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050477

Box No. V**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

It follows that the subject matter of claims 1 to 11 fulfills the requirements of novelty and inventive step set forth in PCT Article 33(2) and 33(3) .

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050477

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

2.1 Independent claims 1 and 3 are inconsistent because, in claim 1, the spacing between the front surface of the medium and the magnetic deposit appears to be an essential feature, yet there is no mention of such spacing in method claim 3. As a result, an essential feature of the invention appears to be missing from the independent method claim (PCT Article 6).